of the Indian Administrative Service/Indian Police Service, during 1995;

(b) if so, the State-wise/Union Territory-wise details thereof; and

(c) whether the Government propose to give reservation benefits by providing special concession at the main exam. and the interview of the Civil Service Examination to the candidates of Other Backward Classes to fill up the reserved posts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) and (b). There are 3 candidates who have been allocated to the Indian Admn. Service against general vacancies. The three candidates belong to Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.

(c) The Rules for Civil Services Examination provides application of relaxed standards in the case of Other Backward Classes, if such relaxation is considered necessary by the U.P.S.C. to fill the vacancies reserved for them.

[English]

Urban Accelerated Water Supply Programme

1833. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Urban Accelerated Water Supply Programme is a Centrally sponsored scheme and is applicable to the towns having population less than 20,000 as per 1991 Census;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether owing to rapid urbanisation, the population of many towns has gone beyond 20,000;

(d) whether the Government of Maharashtra has requested the Union Government to extend the programme to towns having population beyond 20,000 and to increase the LPCD (litres per capita per day) from 70 to 100; and

(e) if so, the reaction of the Union Government to the above request of the Government of Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The Centrally sponsored Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme launched in March, 1994 provides for water supply facilities to towns having population less than 20,000 as per 1991 Census. It is funded by the Central and the State Government in the ratio of 50:50.

On the basis of project proposals received from the State Governments and their viability, 215 schemes at an estimated cost of Rs. 175.67 crores have been sanctioned so far by the Central Government. An amount of Rs. 48.49 crores has been released as Central share to various State Governments.

(c) Since the population survey was carried out in 1991, the population of many towns may have gone beyond 20,000. However, provision of Central assistance under the Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme is based on population of towns as per the 1991 Census.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) In the reply sent, the Central Government has clarified that the present norm of 70 LPCD is considered adequate for towns having population upto 1,00,000, as these towns do not generally have large industrial and institutional requirements of water. In so far as extending the programme to towns having population beyond 20,000 is concerned, it was replied that the Working Group on Urban Water Supply and Sanitation Sector for the 9th Five Year Plan (1997-2002) constituted by the Planning Commission has recommended that the population of the towns to be considered under the Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme may be increased from 20,000 to 1,00,000.

Power Ministry Proposal

1834. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "States reject Power Ministry proposal" appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' dated November 5, 1996;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the main reasons advanced by the steps or rejection of the power of licensing corporates entering electricity distribution to Independent Power Regulatory Commission proposed to be set up; and

(d) the steps taken to make the States agreeable on this proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). In accordance with the decisions taken in the Chief Ministers' Concerence held on 16th October, 1996 a meeting of Energy Secretaries was called on 4th November, 1996 to finalise the draft Common Minimum National Action Plan. The final decision on the Action Plan is to be taken in the next Chief Ministers' Conference.